

The Pocahontas Times.

If thou would'st read a lesson that will keep Thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep, Go to the woods and hills.—Longfellow.

Vol. 25, No 3

Marlinton, Pocahontas Co., West Virginia, August 23 1906

\$1.00 A Year

STUDIES IN PIONEER HISTORY

2nd Paper

Person John Craig was about 31 years of age, when he settled in the Valley of Virginia. There was no "place of worship" he states and so the first meeting house was probably built in the fall of 1740, or the spring of 1741. It was a log house and located in the old burying ground east of the turnpike. In the county records, this is found, "May 16, 1740—200 acres for ye meeting house of ye lower congregation where it is now built including a spring, adjoining Thomas Stephenson's land." For a long while it was a matter somewhat uncertain when the Old Stone Church was built, but Mr Wadell decides there is reason to believe it was commenced in 1747 and first occupied for worship January 22, 1749 or 50.

In this enterprise, the tradition is that men, women and children, aided as each one could. In Parson Craig's diary is this item, under date January 22, 1749; "This is the first day we meet in, and preach in Augusta Meeting House!" Now it is to be remembered that in the question of dates, until 1753, the English year began on March 25th instead of January 1st, as now, hence the month's January, February and March up to the 25th belongs to the same years as December preceding. Hence it is that Mr Craig's date, January 22, 1749, should be according to the present reckoning January 22, 1750.

After walking five miles, the preacher began services at 10 and continued until 12. The afternoon exercises were continued from one o'clock until sundown and sometimes, especially on communion sabbaths it was so late the clerk found it difficult to read the last Psalm. Many of the people came long distances, crossing Middle River where the fording was somewhat unsafe, so they requested the preacher to close earlier, so they could make the crossing by daylight, but he could not see his way clear to do so, and satisfy his sense of duty. There is but one printed sermon extant, having for its text; "Al- though my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure; for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he maketh it not to grow," 2nd Sam., 23:5. This sermon being composed according to the then prevalent "exhaustive method," contains fifty five divisions and subdivisions. Such sermonizing nowadays would be exhaustive in more senses than one.

Among the incidents that thrilled our pioneer ancestry was what occurred in June 1754 at Anderson's barn on Middle River, but a few miles away. Twelve Indians stopped at the barn to spend the night, and while they were asleep, a party of reckless white men attacked them with tomahawks and guns and but one escaped. The news he carried to his tribe, it is believed did a great deal towards bringing on the war that raged so fiercely for years on the frontier.

All of these Indian killers except one, left the neighborhood for remote parts of the frontier. The one that remained led a miserable skulking life for a long while. Sometimes he would attend the services at the Old Stone Meeting house, sit on the sill of the door, rifle in hand and listen to the sermon. He avoided all men and others avoided him, and by being left severely alone he was suffered to work out his own punishments. After Braddock's defeat in July 1755, all west of the Blue Ridge was liable to In-

dian invasion, no family feeling safe in its lonely isolated cabin. So far as we can see, there would have been a general stampede back to Pennsylvania and over the eastern mountains, had not Parson Craig resolutely opposed it, as disgraced to the people themselves and to God.

For a few lines about the "Meeting house" was made a place of refuge, and for miles around the people gathered here for mutual protection. An embankment was thrown up around the building, traces of which are yet visible after more than one hundred and fifty years.

So far as known, no attack was ever made by the Indians, but there were numerous alarms, and it requires a vivid imagination to form even a remote idea of the crowded and uncomfortable condition of the stronghold, whenever there was an alarm. Some of the names represented by the refugees gathered at this place, were Allens, Gambles, Kerrs, Robertsons, Bells, Beards, Crawfords, Walkers, Givenses, Craigs, Pattersons, Ponges, Grattons, Trimble, Moffets, McClunges, Currys, Browns, Byers, Andersons, Prestons, Stephenson, Wilsons, Davises, Hogsetts, Millers and many others, no doubt, who have living representatives, but their family histories have been lost.

Pastor Craig was much attached to his people, and expressed himself in regard to them in terms of ungrateful praise, as a good-natured, prudent, governable people, who liberally bestowed a part of what God gave them for religious and pious uses; always unanimous in their opinions; always ready to help one another. They readily fixed on the place, and agreed on the plan of building it, contributed cheerfully money and labor to accomplish the work, all in the voluntary way, what every man pleased." Then elsewhere, when he mentions the excitement and panic, caused by Braddock's disaster, and alluding to the fortification of the Meeting house, against the Indians the people required him to practice what he had so vehemently advised, and so "required me to go before them in the work, which I did cheerfully." This he gratified with a somewhat back-handed remark, by slyly adding, "though it cost me one-third of my estate." This faithful old pastor of our pioneer ancestors passed away April 21, 1774, aged about 65 years, having been born in Antrim County, Ireland in 1709.

One of the first Ruling Elders of the Old Stone Meeting house, was Capt. James Allen, whose home was near the Willow Spout. He was prominent in County affairs. In the battle of Point Pleasant 1774, he saw his brother Hugh killed, and before leaving for the march across the Ohio, marked his grave with a stone. He died in 1810, ninety four years of age, having been an Elder sixty four years. Col. George Moffet was another Ruling Elder of the Old Stone Meeting house, along with Captain James Allen. His residence was on a farm four or five miles west of the church, called Mount Pleasant.

In 1781, he led a battalion of Augusta troops to North Carolina, and was in the affair at Guilford Court House. Later he rallied the Augusta troops to meet Tarleton. After the Revolution he presided in the County Court, serving as a Trustee of Washington College, Lexington, Va., and was a frequent member of Presbytery. He died in 1810, and was buried in the Augusta Church graveyard.

During the Braddock panic, Col. Moffet's family would come to the Meeting House fort, bringing with them a colored woman, whose courage and fidelity deserves more than a passing notice. As the cattle were left on the farm the cows were likely to suffer from being un milked.

Every evening Chloe would gallop home, milk the cows, churn

what was gathered the night before, and return with the butter before daylight.

W. T. P.
From Oklahoma

I have had so many letters of inquiry from you, that I had to write for a few lines about Oklahoma. The government has recently opened for Settlement 480,000 acres of Indian land Oklahoma. The land will be for sale at public auction to the highest bidder. The purchaser must live over 21 years of age and is required to use a homestead right on the land and will have to pay 1-5 of the money cash, and the balance in 4 equal installments. This is a fine opportunity for the homeless people to acquire a fine piece of land, for I know from observation that part of this land is good as can be had in the United States. This is the fifth, and last time Oklahoma will have public land open for Settlement, as this tract now comprises all the vacant land in Okla. There are 2,100,000 of school land set apart for the benefit of public schools purposes. Wise laws have been enacted for the organization and maintenance of schools in which every child can receive a free education. Okla has 2,593 districts schools and 7 State Universities. There has been a phenomenal growth of cities and towns and the indications are for greater. There is a wonderful progress made by the people here in such a short time, which is not only due to their energy and industry but to the great fertility of the soil and favorable climate and a abundance of rain fall. The people here have Oklahoma won more high grade premiums on the exhibit of agriculture products than any other three States in the union at the fair in St. Louis. We are in Cameron Co. the newest and best and largest Co in Oklahoma. This Co. is larger than the State of New Jersey and Rhode Island combined and is well watered with several small streams, the land close the streams are heavily timbered and some 30 varieties of wood are found. The fertile soil the sunny skies equable climatic conditions all betoken the possibilities of which men dreamed before this country was open for settlement and which now have become living realities.

Originally this was a vast pasture ground upon which buffalo, elk, deer and antelope grazed in countless thousands. It was not strange therefore when these had passed away the ranchman was quick to see and seize the opportunity to drive in the herds of cattle from the range in Texas, but as the hunter man of the roving aboriginal tribes had to give way to the herds man so the herds man had to even so give place husband man and single generation was permitted to witness this most wonderful transformation.

Harvest is over and the hum of the thrashers are heard all over the country and hundreds of cars are running daily to carry the wheat and oats to the markets of the world and thousands of Comanche Co's acres are yet waving in blooming cotton fields and corn fields. Latter many more cars will be required to carry out the corn and cotton to clothe and feed the world. Truly no nation on earth is as progressive industrious and energetic as our great American people. To any one doubting this I will say come and see Comanche Co, Okla, which is only five years old, visit her Co Seat with her ten miles of concrete side walks, see her elected lights, \$20,000 water works, drive over the country see the beautiful small towns and fertile farms with their neat houses and buildings, and you will say the same and I think you would be pleased enough for you would want to make your home here. For fear this is already too long and will be consigned to the waste basket, I will close. Wishing old Pocahontas and her people great prosperity I will close.

Mrs L. J. Pyles

Steel Passenger Coaches

One of the day coaches in south bound passenger train No. 29 on the Southern railway yesterday afternoon was no 1364. The first all steel passenger car for a railroad ever made in the United States. It was made by the Pressed Steel Car Company of Pittsburgh, Pa., and was introduced in June at Marlinton, West Virginia.

The appearance of the new steel car resembles the wooden cars except for a double row of rivet heads, which extend the entire length of the car. It is 74 feet 6 inches in length, 66 feet inside length, 9 feet 10 inches wide and 14 feet 2 inches high. The entire car is made of pressed steel, and what little wood is used in the trimmings is absolutely fireproof. Even the floor of the car is of steel, so that it would be impossible for the car to take fire. The new steel car possesses many advantages. In addition to being impossible to set afire, it is also impossible for the car to telescope during a wreck and it would be impossible for ends to be smashed in. If these steel cars are adopted generally by the railroads as it seems probable that they will be, the danger from frightful wrecks will be reduced to a minimum. The greatest disadvantage of the new cars are their weight. This car weighs about 15 per cent more than the ordinary wooden day coach. It is expected, however, that the weight can be reduced to about 5 per cent.

This car is the first of three or four which were placed by the Southern as an experiment. If these three prove to be successful the entire passenger equipment of the Southern may be replaced by steel cars. The pressed Steel Car Company of Pittsburgh, Pa., is the manufacturer of the new cars. The latter read also expects to supply steel cars if it is decided that they are practical.—Lynchburg News.

This Moose Carried a Compass

Last winter near the town of Shelburne, Nova Scotia, on the farm of Mr Cornelius Swanberg, a moose was shot by his son George, and when the creature was opened up the contents of the stomach had discharged through a rent made by the bullet. Among this half-digested material appeared a small brass compass 1 1/2 inches in diameter with a cover, but in good order. Spots of green rust were evidence that it had been swallowed at least two or three days. The young man, whom I know very well, presented me with the compass. No doubt the animal had been picking up the scraps about a camping ground and gathered up this trinket in her loose lips. Such an occurrence must be extremely rare. Very likely no other moose had ever roamed the forests with a compass in the stomach. Had not the stomach been torn by the bullet in this instance, the discovery of the instrument would not have been made.—From Forest and Stream.

Mrs Mary L. McNeel

Mrs Mary L. McNeel died at the home of Mr John Crosby, Saturday night, aged 67 years, after an illness of three weeks. She was the daughter of the late Samuel M. Woodward, and was the last of a family of nine children. She had made her home with her nephew, Mr Harry Burnett, until this summer, when she went to live with Mr Crosby. She was a lovely Christian woman, beloved by all who knew her. The funeral took place from Trinity Episcopal church Monday afternoon, and a large concourse of friends and relatives was present. The services were conducted by the rector, Rev W. Q. Hulihan, and the interment was in Thornrose cemetery. The pall-bearers were—Active: Messrs. Harry and Aubrey Burnett, James H. Thomas, D. and P. M. Woodward, and W. B. Miller. Honorary: Hon Marshall Hanger, Mr Jos. B. Woodward, and Mr John T. Harman.

—Staunton Spectator.

Guardian Angels

It is a pleasant thought and somewhat warranted by Scripture, that unseen by us, but ever watching and attending, there are or may be angelic beings around us. Learning lately to an interesting discourse from a passing minister of the Gospel who conducted services at the Presbyterian church, the subject of Christ's "little ones" or His angels, and guardian angels beholding the face of the Father in Heaven still lingers in mind and brings up trains of thought in the same line. If these angels of disciples or lovers of Christ are in Heaven around the Throne of God are they also hovering over earth, cognizant of earthly actions, sorrows and dangers, deeply interested and, best of all, do they "minister" unto us, ward off danger and help in bringing their charges safe home to the Father's house in peace? It may even be so and surely the thought is pleasant and uplifting. The Catholic church has more of angelic ministrations than the Protestant and, as in many other ways, has gone too far, but we need not be above learning from the Catholic church. For sometimes she may well teach the Protestant; witness the devotional Spirit, the self-forgetting charities, etc.

Perhaps the following doggerel has come down from the dark Middle Ages when the Papacy seemed intent to swallow up the earth and force all men even though against the will to some kind of Heaven whose road thereto might be lighted up by the blazing fires of martyrs at the stake. The body made no difference; just so the souls of the faithful were saved from the kindness of such friends, But the "doggerel"—this is it,

There are four corners in my bed,
There are four angels round my head;
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John,
God bless the bed that I lie on."

Why the four Evangelists were taken cannot be known unless for the sake of rhyme.

I would here transcribe an incident, very solemn and touching to me, that has never been on paper before. Readers may pass such judgment upon it as they please,—only I beg them to take it as I write it, that is,—seriously. The person who told the matter to me and herself the subject of the occasion, a sensible and balanced Christian, as far from idle superstition and visionary enthusiasm as one can well be and very little given to speaking of herself anyway. While yet scarcely more than a child and just recovering from illness, her mother who had been in constant attendance day and night left the room for a while and being quite alone and perfectly awake, she was conscious of a presence angelic and beautiful; never before nor ever afterward did she see such a lovely being apparently sitting in the middle of the room as a sweet and helpful companion might do; there were no wings as we usually connect with angels in our fancy,—nothing strange beyond the wonderful flowing golden hair, and the indescribable sense of an unearthly visitant of comfort and cheer. A few moments and the vision, if such it were, passed away, but the vivid remembrance and up lift of it, never thro' a very long life. This is my treasured incident and I seek not to explain it. When the Christian of whom I write came to die at the advanced age of 81 years and some months, and lay conscious and suffering, Oh, so much and patiently, she said nothing in the way of a dying testimony save in answer to a daughter's question with reference to the near departure,—"my child, I see my way clear."

The minister who officiated at her funeral observed,— a christian life of ten years speaks a good deal, a christian life of twenty years speaks more; but what shall we say of a christian life extend-

ing to nearly seventy years; and such, the life of this godly woman now resting with the Savior she so much loved and so humbly and faithfully served."

—Contributed.

Hinton Marble Works Growing

One of the best and most complete marble works in the State is the R. E. Noel plant located in this city. With the exception of the Wheeling plant, the Hinton marble works is the best in West Virginia and much of its product is shipped into Virginia.

Mr Noel established his plant here in the spring of 1895 beginning with the old hand method of carving. Now all that has been changed.

Out in the engine room there is an air compressor working steadily all the time during hours of work, and furnishing the power for about six pneumatic chisels. As contrasted with the old fashioned method of doing the work, the present system seems like play, so the power of the compressed air turned to the use of the workman. All the work from dressing down the marble and making it smooth, to making the most delicate lettering, is done by means of the compressed air. There are, indeed, many kinds of lettering done with the compressed air chisels that cannot be done by hand.

In the near future Mr Noel will install a pneumatic polisher, one of the most expensive instruments used in the business.

The plant is one worth visiting. On all sides are to be seen great piles of Vermont and Georgia marble and Bedford stone, the last of which is used for basins for monuments. Mr Noel has more than seven car loads of marble on hand. They are of such a size that he employs four men in his shop in addition to himself. He constructed the great Confederate monument that stands in Monroe county, and which costs \$1,500.

—Hinton News.

The Standard Oil

Alton, Ill.—Attorney General Hadley, of Missouri, in a speech declared that the Standard Oil Co's system of business is as criminal as the business of a burglar or pickpocket and that justice requires that every state in the union enact and enforce laws which will mete out the same justice to great corporations carrying on business in restraint of trade unlawfully as to the man who robs a house or picks a pocket.

Public sentiment, he declared, would not countenance an attorney for unlawful acts the giving to colleges and universities vast sums which are but a small tithe of that wrung from the people by unlawful business methods. The burglar might as well expect to secure absolution by dropping a portion of his "swag" in the contribution box in church.

John D. Rockefeller, he declared, is responsible for a system of commercial bad faith.

Order of Publication

State of West Virginia,
Pocahontas County, ss:
At rules held in the clerk's office of the Circuit Court of Pocahontas county, on the first Monday in August, 1906.

Luther Perkins, Plaintiff
vs)
Laura Belle Perkins Defendant.

The object of this suit is to obtain from the defendant an absolute divorce from the bonds of matrimony.

This day came the plaintiff by his attorney, and on his motion, and it appearing by affidavit filed, that the defendant, Laura Belle Perkins, is a non-resident of this State, it is ordered that she do appear within one month after the date of the first publication hereof, and do what is necessary to protect her interest in this suit.

Teste:
J. H. PATTERSON, Clerk,
T. S. McNEEL, S. J.

John Reed, of Pocahontas county is assisting his aunt, Mrs John L. Hizer, Monterey.—Reporter.

Bolar, Va

Since writing you last week, I have enjoyed myself here very much. There are about twenty five persons at the Springs. There are five different kinds of water at as many different places, all within one mile. Rev. Pope, of Marlinton, preached a very able and instructive sermon at the Bolar church, last Sunday. His text was taken from Prov. 3rd chapter, thirteenth to eighteenth.

In illustrating a point, he spoke very highly of a man in your city, and cast a glance in my direction, and some of the congregation knowing I come from that direction looked at me. The lady who sat next to me knew it was not me he referred to, because she had reduced the fracture in the bosom of my pants, caused by me doubling heading Mr McGoffins dog away from the harvest apple tree on Saturday night, and the fellows who looked around had sicked the dog. Did you ever double head a bull dog? I hauled him all right until I got to the top of the fence, when the coupling broke, causing the fracture in my pants. This dog and apple incident has caused a coldness between me and some of my Bolar friends, so I am going to get the Durbin auto out and sadly retrace my steps to Marlinton, hoping to get there this week.

A. D. A.

Buckeye

The farmers of this neighborhood are rejoicing to see the sun shining once more, so they can harvest their hay and oats.

Misses Nellie and Bertie Lightner of this place, who have been visiting friends in Upshur County for the past three weeks, have returned. They report a nice time from Kentucky. He reports Kentucky one of the finest countries he has visited lately.

Coe Adkison has returned home from camp, where he has been for the past four months. He reports plenty of work and good wages.

H. K. Wilson will finishing sawing John Beverage's timber in a few weeks, and will move to Kenilworth. He expects to cut about one million feet.

The road that runs from Buckeye to Beaver Dam is almost impossible to travel. Some of the teamsters have quit hauling on account of the mud. If there isn't something done with our County roads the people will have to travel some of the old sheep paths, and carry their provision on their backs.

The people of this neighborhood as well as the people of Beaver Dam, are glad to know that our County Court has come to the conclusion that there ought to be a new road made to Beaver Dam, for we believe that this will be the heart of Pocahontas in years to come.

BIDS WANTED.

We will receive bids until noon on September 4th, 1906, to take from the stump, saw into logs and deliver in logs at Seabert Station, on the Greenbrier Railway, all of the oak, poplar, cucumber, hickory, cherry and walnut growing on our Wash Hill farm on Hills Creek and Bruffeys Creek, in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, distance to Railroad 8 to 9 miles.

We estimate 2500 logs, all logs to be cut four inches over length and to be scaled by Scribners rules, and branded before hauled. All work required to be done in a skillful manner.

We will require security for performance and completion of the contract, and will give security to pay promptly. Right reserved to reject all bids.

Go and look at the land, the timber and the roads.

For further particulars apply to

Henry Gilmer,
J. S. & J. E. Crawford,
Lewisburg, W. Va.

W. J. McLaughlin, of Savanah, is now bookkeeper for the Lewisburg Milling and Electric Co.—Independent.

After Violators

The United States postoffice authorities in Fayette County, are bending their energies, just at present so stamp out the alleged widespread practice of enclosing written matter in packages or second class matter that are sent through the mails. Any such enclosure is in direct violation of section 484 of the postoffice regulations and also of section 3885 of the revised United States Statutes and is punishable for a fine of \$10 which may be collected by the postoffice inspector whenever the violation is detected.

Inspector Hill states that he has already collected nearly \$1,000 in this way in the past few weeks including a considerable sum in the city of Charleston. Thousands of people in this state are mailing packages of tobacco tags to the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco company, of Winston-Salem, N. C., or the Mail Pouch company in Wheeling, and enclosing written orders for premiums and it is this class of offenders that the authorities are particularly determined to bring to see the error of their ways. Inspector Hill has calculated that, at the present rate of collections, he will turn in enough in the course of a short time, to cover the annual postoffice deficit and he seems quite cheerful under the prospect of keeping it up until the premium seekers want to stop and be good.

—News.

Miss Mabel Moore, of Pocahontas, passed through town on her way to Sweet Springs.

Mr A. E. Kennison, of Academey was here Tuesday.

—Valley Democrat.

Inton, W. Va., is visiting Mrs C. D. Lam on Water street. Mr Moore was here a day or two, but left yesterday for his home.

—Covington Sentinel.

George C. Spangler, traveling salesman for Thomas Bros., wholesale queensware, of Baltimore, Md., is spending a few days at the Springs. He is accompanied by Mrs Spangler.—Webster Echo.

Rev. N. A. Parker and Miss Leonard Dickinson were married at the home of the bride's parents at Hico, Wednesday morning at 11:30 a. m. Rev J. N. Holt, of Alderson officiating. Only a few intimate friends and relatives in attendance.—Montgomery News.

Order of Publication

State of West Virginia,
Pocahontas County, ss:
At rules held in the clerk's office of the Circuit Court of Pocahontas county, on the first Monday in August, 1906.

W. J. Killingsworth Plaintiff
vs)
Douglas McNeil alias G. D. McNeil, A. S. Overholt, Trustee and N. C. McNeil Defendants.

The object of this suit is to enforce a vendors lien for the payment of three notes of \$333.33 each, dated April 19th, 1905, bearing interest from date and due in one, two and three years, respectively from July 1st, 1905, against Lots 11 and 12 in Block 23 in the town of Marlinton, West Virginia, as shown by deed dated April 19th, 1905, and recorded in the clerk's office of the County Court of Pocahontas county, in Deed Book, No. 37, at page 168.

This day came the plaintiff by his attorney, and on his motion, and it appearing by affidavit filed that the defendant, Douglas McNeil, alias G. D. McNeil, is a non-resident of this State, it is ordered that he do appear within one month after the date of the first publication hereof, and do what is necessary to protect his interest in this suit.

Teste:
J. H. PATTERSON, Clerk,
L. M. McCLINTIC, S. J.